

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 4, 2006. Claims 1-20 are currently pending.

Initially the Examiner objected to the claims for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Applicant has made some minor changes to the claims to overcome the antecedent basis problems indicated by the Examiner.

The Examiner went on to reject claims 1-8, 10, 15-16 as being anticipated by Garvey (GB2343701). Applicant has amended claim 1 to require the retaining arm extend parallel to the lacing.

The new claim 1 is both novel and inventive over the prior art.

In GB 2343701 Garvey a toggle is provided with a rigid clip means 11, which can only retain single portions of lace alongside one another (see FIGS. 2, 6 and 8). Furthermore, the clip means 11 of Garvey extends along the width of the toggle body (perpendicular to the lacing).

This arrangement only allows for the laces to be retained by the clip means in the manner shown in FIGS. 6 and 8. In particular, it only allows for the laces to be retained in a manner which does not resemble a traditional shoe lace bow with two opposed loops and ends.

The object of the present invention is to provide a toggle with clip means which facilitates the ready arrangement of the laces into a traditional shoe lace bow shape.

Such a shape is only possible if the two portions of lace protruding from the toggle are overlapped, as shown at 22 in FIGS. 3b and 3c, and if the retaining arm 10 can retain the overlapped portion 22 which extends parallel to the line of lacing (for example, along the length of a shoe or boot).

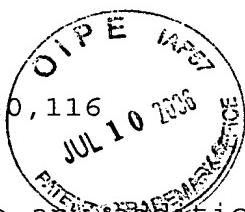
Further the arm extends along the length of the toggle body, so the overlapped portion 22 can be readily placed under the raised arm, as shown in FIGS. 3c and 3d, and the loops 25, 26 and ends 27, 28 extend laterally from the toggle.

Therefore, the present invention is over Garvey due to the different construction of the retaining arm. Further, the present invention is also inventive over Garvey because Garvey teaches nothing about the effective presentation of the laces, and it is not obvious from this document that a traditional appearing bow can be formed by the novel procedure shown in FIGS. 3a to 3d of the present invention, which is facilitated by the particular construction of the arm in the amended claim 1.

Furthermore, it would appear that a combination of Ang and Garvey would merely replace the clip member 11 with the clip member of Ang and not change the orientation of the clip of Garvey.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

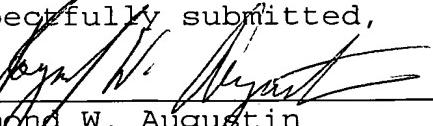


If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By

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